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Pest Alert

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Northeastern Area

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DOGWOOD ANTHRACNOSE

A new disease caused by the fungus *Discula sp.* is killing forest and ornamental flowering dogwood *(Cornus florida)* in the Northeast. Initial symptoms are small, purple-rimmed spots and large brown blotches on the leaves. Twigs die back; eventually lower branches are killed. Diseased trees form clusters of water sprouts along the stem, which become infected and die back to the bole. The disease progresses from the bottom to the top of the tree until it is killed.

Proper pruning of affected branches and sprouts, and preventing drought stress and nutrient deficiency will help dogwood trees withstand anthracnose disease.

Leaf infections

Flowering dogwoods with anthracnose damage
(photo by C.R. Ribben)

Dead water sprouts along stem

Send reports of damage to:

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